

HOST IN THE SHELL

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

2

ISSUE 11 OF 11

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MASAMUNE SHIROW

GHOST IN THE SHELL
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 11 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY

MASAMUNE SHIROW

TRANSLATION BY

FREDERIK L. SCHODT AND TOREN SMITH

この物語に登場する
様々な設定や解説や概念
は全て妄想の産物で
あり、現実とは無関係
の娛樂物です。服用を
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂
ければ幸いです。

またデッчи上げやギミック
の「誤用」による
二次被害には当方責任
を負いかねます点を御
了承願います。

LETTERING BY

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AND DAN JACKSON**

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

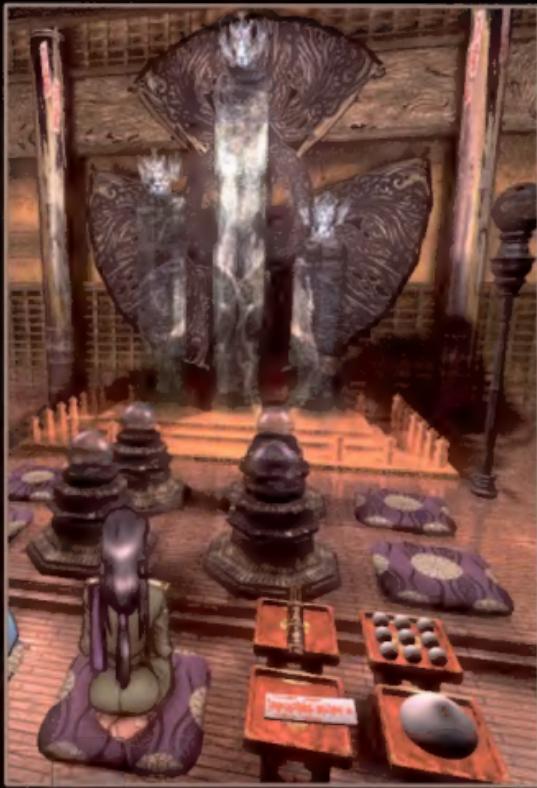
In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

Send comments to:

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06 EPILOGUE
2035.03.06.05:35AM



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ROBBIE LANE DO NOT STAR





When a cyborg's entire body is a prosthesis, its exterior doesn't have to look the same age as that of the living brain portion inside. But there are sometimes problems when a child's brain is implanted in an adult prosthetic body, and these problems can affect personality development. As a result, most brains are given prosthetic bodies that match them well. In this story, we are assuming people either want prosthetic bodies that look the way they did when they were younger, or that they want natural-looking bodies appropriate to their true age...





RIGHT NOW, IF THIS VERY INSTANT PROVIDES THE BEST LONG AND SHORT-TERM CHOICES, THE BEST LIFE IS PROBABLY THE AGGREGATE OF ALL THOSE CHOICES, YES?

AND IS THAT WHY DEATH IS ACCEPTABLE?



I SUPPOSE A PSYCHOLOGIST MIGHT SAY THIS IS THE REVENGE OF THE "REAL" BODY I LOST AS A GIRL.

NO COMMENT.



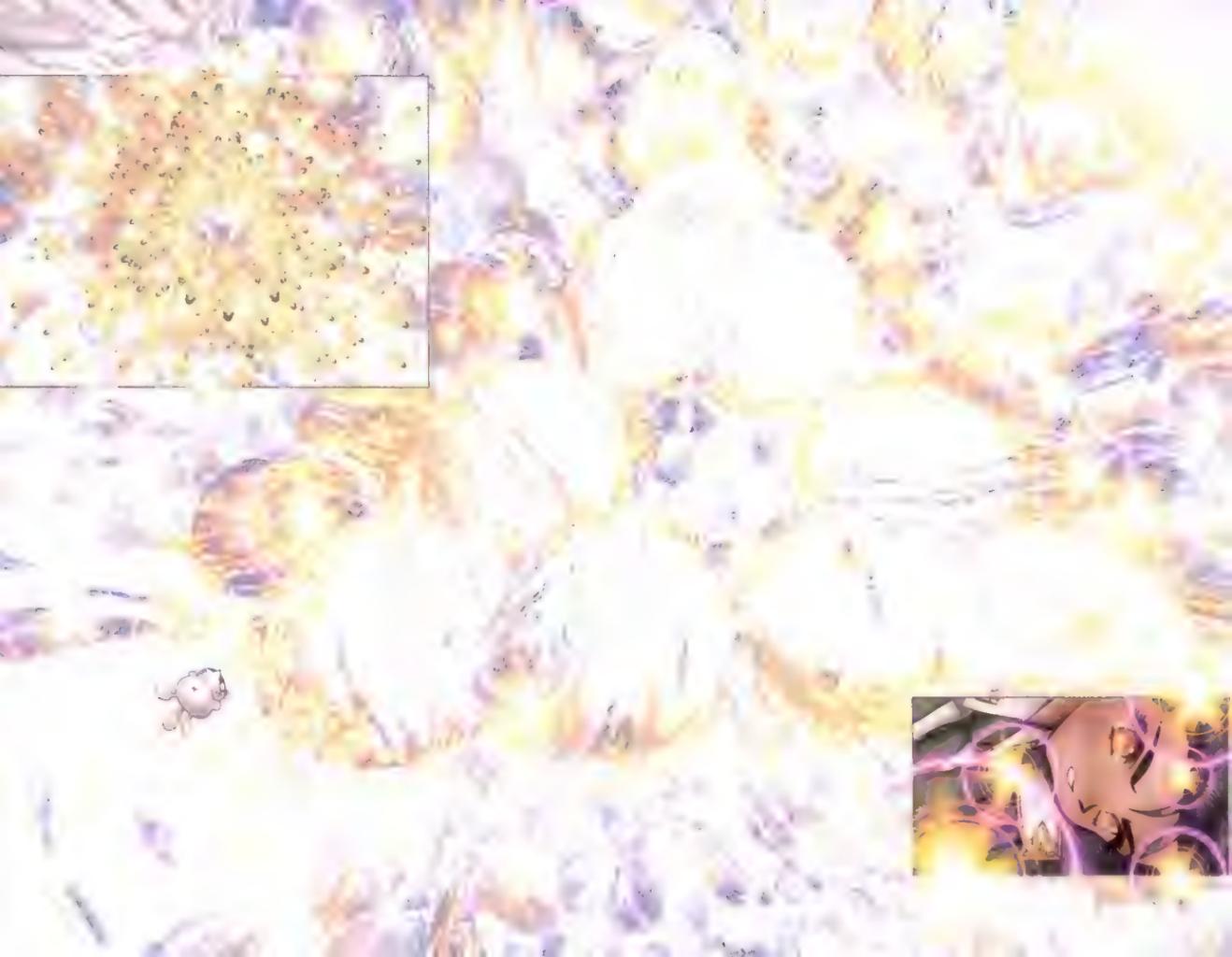














OUR BASIC INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THAT PROFESSOR RAHAMPOL HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN THE POTENTIAL OF SILICON STRUCTURES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ON THE OTHER HAND MOTOKO ARAMAKI OFFERED HER HARDWARE TO A SELF-PROFESSED ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORM, AND SHE'S BEEN EXPANDING HER INFLUENCE

THE COMMONALITY BETWEEN THESE TWO THINGS IS...A NEW TYPE OF INTELLIGENT LIFE

THREE THOUSAND YEARS AGO THERE WAS ANOTHER MIRROR MILLENNIUM. BUT TOO FEW RECORDS SURVIVE TO MAKE ANY ESTIMATES ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE PHENOMENON. TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO IT WAS THE JEWEL MILLENNIUM, DURING WHICH RELIGION WAS EXTREMELY POWERFUL

BUT WHEN THE SWORD MILLENNIUM BEGAN, IT WAS SYMBOLIZED BY POWERFUL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. RELIGION-- UNTIL THEN, THE JEWEL-- BECAME A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SCIENCE AND RELIGION MIRROR EACH OTHER, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE PHENOMENON OF THE MIRROR IS...RIGHT?

THE MIRROR REFLECTS THE THREE SOULS OF SELF...THE INNER DYNASTIES

HRM

The Three Souls...I'm not going to get into a discussion here of dualism or the "single spirit, four souls," etc., of the ancient Shinto religion. Although the story seems very "Shinto"-ish here, remember...it isn't Shinto.



BUT HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THE AMANOJAKU IN FOLKLORE?



IN TAMAKI TAMAI'S REPORT, THE INVESTIGATION WAS FOCUSED ON SOMEONE WITH NO SIGNS OF THE STRESS SYNDROME UNIQUE TO CYBORGS



IT REFERS TO SOMEONE ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING CONTRARY OR TO A DEMON WHO IMITATES HUMANS

THERE'S NO "CORRECT" ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION... IT'S SOMETHING VAGUE. . SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SAY THE AMANOJAKU IS "A PERSON WHO SPEAKS THE TRUTH ON THE TREE'S SIDE" OR EVEN "AN EMISSARY OF THE DEVIL."



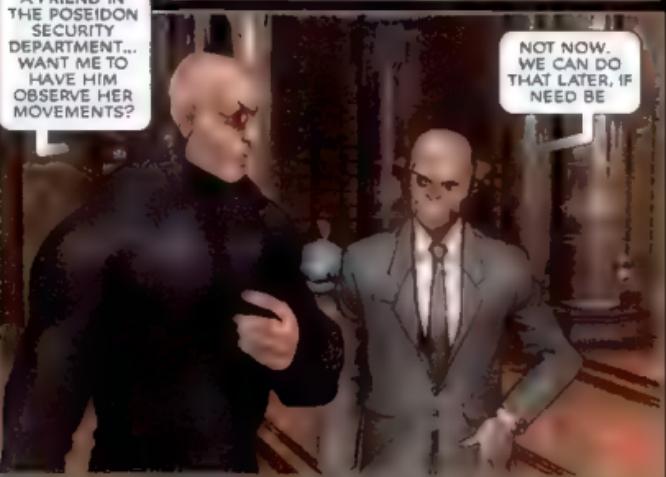
NOT A NIHILISTIC PHILOSOPHER-TYPE, BUT A POSITIVE REALIST.... A PERSONALITY TRAIT THE NEW LIFE-FORM WE'RE SEEING MAY HAVE INHERITED

AND IF SO...WHAT HAPPENS?



SHE WILL SOON CONFRONT THIS

UH...I'VE GOT A FRIEND IN THE POSEIDON SECURITY DEPARTMENT... WANT ME TO HAVE HIM OBSERVE HER MOVEMENTS?



NOT NOW. WE CAN DO THAT LATER, IF NEED BE



WE CAN RESTART
THE INVESTIGATION
AS SOON AS TAMAI
RECOVERS, BUT WE'LL
PROBABLY HAVE TO
WAIT UNTIL AROUND
NOON FOR THAT
TO HAPPEN

WELL, SHE DID
SAY THAT THIS
MATTER HAD BEEN
AROUND FOR A
THOUSAND YEARS
AND WOULD
PROBABLY
CONTINUE FOR
ETERNITY .. SO..



IT'S TRUE
THAT WHAT
IS GOING TO
OCUR TODAY
IS ONLY A
BEGINNING...
A SINGLE
TRANSIT
POINT.. BUT
IT'S ALSO AN
END POINT



SINCE IT'S
HAPPENING
IN
REAL TIME,
I WANTED
YOU TO BE
PRESENT

? BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU GUYS
WERE IN THE
BUSINESS OF
VIEWING THE
FUTURE...



THE PAST
AND THE
FUTURE ARE
THE SAME
THING

THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE
IS ON THE
PART OF THE
PERCEIVER ..



MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE: THE END

2

CLOSED

C



C

INTERFACE

mailto:office@unitedchristian.org

جامعة الملك عبد الله

Yumpin' Yimmy, the final issue of *Man-Machine Interface*. I'd like to thank our many loyal readers for staying on the har-wagon through thick and thin - and bumpy shipping schedules - and we hope all of you enjoyed the books as much as we enjoyed bringing them to you. And although there'll be no more *Interface* columns - stop cheering, same goal - feel free to keep dropping snails and letters of comment. As far as we know, we'll keep reading them. Also, we want to pay tribute to those who labored long and hard for little pay and even less money to bring *Man-Machine Interface* to you. We hope you like our efforts.



TORIN SMITH: President of Studio Proteus, he who was manga before you were manga, Johnny. Since 1987, Toron has worked on over 80,000 pages of translated manga comprising 71 different series, which used to be impressive, but isn't anymore ever since that much started being published every month. Working on Shireo comics for 16 years has altered his brain at the molecular level and given him the secret mutant ability to understand Ghost in the Shell. Aside from bringing some of the finest manga to America, Toron does the script rewrites on many translated manga, MMII included, which is an art in itself. Toron will go to extreme lengths, such as diving wrecks in the Cayman Islands. Don't get us why Toron makes the big bucks, mister!

FREDERIK L. SCHODT: Translator *primum inter pars*, *Fred's the guy who sweeps bullets to make Mr. Shirane's very complex scripts understandable to those of us who operate several dozen levels of mental magnitude below MMII's creator.* Aside from his considerable manga translation credits – like about three quarters of a million words of *Nisei Boy* – Fred has written a basket load of fascinating books – yes, buy them NOW – including *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics* (the definitive work on the subject) and his latest, *Native American in the Land of the Shonen*.



TOM OMZECHOWSKI: One of the comics industry's most renowned letterers, whose personalized approach is as instantly recognizable as that steely bouncer down the street with the eagle claw tattooed on his face, Tom would be a millionaire today had he only been paid by the word during his decade-long stint on *X-Men*.

DAN JACKSON: *Crackerjack Photoshop wrangler Dan Jackson assists Tomasz Oziechowski with a variety of visual effects and spends the livelong day getting the incredibly complex graphics files for MMII just right. Dan's also a fine colorist as well as a PhD in Particle Physics. Okay, I made that last bit up, but he is a terrific colorist!*



DAVID NESTELLE: *Dark Horse is lousy with crackerjack Photoshop wranglers, I tell ya. Dave's the book's principle graphic designer, responsible for the very cool 3D graphics on the "Enter" page and the like. Dave's been busting his tail on eye-slapping digitally rendered images on staff here for some time, and we're really going to miss Dave once we've caught him outside after sucking the creative life out of him.*

INTERCHANGE

We wind up our final issue of *Man-Machine Interface* with some interesting bits and pieces from the vast *MMI* vaults.

Submitted for your approval, ample evidence of exactly how much painstaking work Masamune Shirow puts into his storytelling. Here's a panel from issue two, with a series of floating screen images. Below are larger versions of those images, but you'll probably want to get out your magnifying glass to check out some of the details that now show up.



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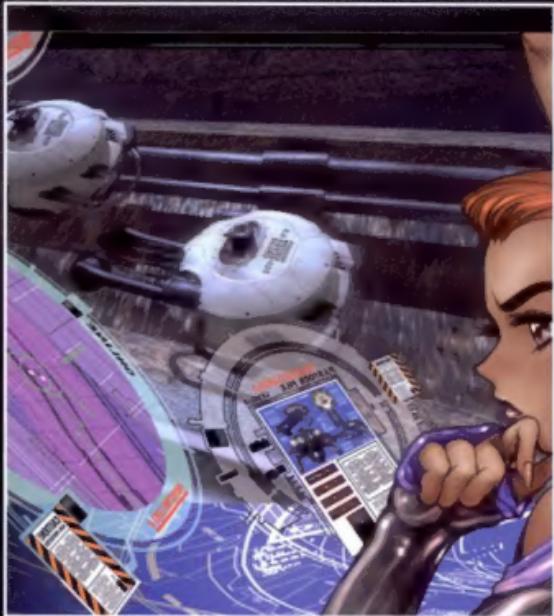
A variant view of the amazing inspection ROVs from the second issue. And the figure floating at right? That's the teeny, tiny figure swimming in the background of the panel!



R.O.V-0V38-025 SILURU



Okay, now get out your electron microscope! Here's a blown-up version of the little throwaway ROV schematic from issue 2 that was printed about the size of a tobacco tax stamp. I am told by our magical production folk that this text is actually readable when blown up from the high-resolution files. Of course, that could just be the whiskey talking...



And here, the coolest thing ever: the *Man-Machine Interface* mousepad that came with the limited-edition *Solid Box* set in Japan. I had to stop using mine, since I was having a hard time keeping my eyes on the computer screen!

